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SOURCE Kiangsi Jih-pao.

MINISTRY OF TRADE TAKES STEPS  
TO STABILIZE YEAR-END PRICES

Peiping, 5 December -- The Ministry of Trade of the Central People's Government, People's Republic of China, has issued a special directive concerned with the stabilization of commodity prices at the end of the year. The purpose of this directive is to hasten national land reform, hasten recovery and development of industrial and agricultural production, and to improve the purchasing power of city and country laborers. Provisions of the directive are as follows:

All trade administrators and special trading companies shall be very careful in planning and organizing preparatory buying of goods for this period. Care must be taken to see that all wholesale and retail markets are fully supplied with the important consumer commodities (rice, flour, sugar, oil, and salt) to avoid any scarcity of supply and resultant rise in prices. Preparations concerning secondary food items (such as fish, meat, eggs, vegetables, and fruits) should be sufficient to insure stabilization of the wholesale prices. Arrangements should be made for joint purchasing by private, public, and cooperative enterprises. It will be the responsibility of the concerned special trading corporations to insure acquisition and timely distribution of the items under their jurisdiction.

It will be necessary for all trade organizations to maintain strict control of prices, keeping a reasonable price differential between interarea prices as well as wholesale-retail prices, and stimulating private trade by allowing a suitable profit in production, transport, and sales. Firm control must be maintained over the market through rigid inspections and by encouraging the people to report violations. Newspapers and radios will be used to inform the people of the program.

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